

The Old Stone Wall

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Sustainability and Historic Buildings

James L. Garvin, State Architectural Historian



Old and historic buildings are products of design and constructive skill and are receptacles of stored energy.

Preservation of such buildings conserves the cultural environment by cherishing the thought and effort of

past generations, and protects the natural environment by husbanding energy that was expended decades or centuries ago.

Older buildings have inherent harmony with their environment. Such buildings were built to provide shelter and comfort at a time when nature and the local products of nature represented the only available resources. The materials from which older buildings were constructed came largely from nearby, especially in the days before the advent of the railroad. Wood was harvested from local forests; bricks were made from local clay, baked by locally cut cordwood. Having been built before electrification in many cases, these buildings were designed to take advantage of natural light and ventilation, and often of solar warming.

The preservation of older buildings is a powerful tool in protecting the natural environment. Having been built through the investment of human, mechanical, and chemical energy, these buildings still embody that energy. This embodied energy continues to sustain us without requiring further investment except for ordinary maintenance. Preserving such buildings avoids wasting the energy that was invested in their construction, the additional energy that would be required to demolish them, and the energy it would take to build anew. Preserving such buildings avoids burdening our landfills with solid waste and filling our atmosphere with the products of unnecessary burning. By conserving what we already have, we continue to derive benefit from structures that were designed

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and built to last indefinitely, not to become obsolete after a few decades.

Our cultural landscape is the product of the planning and work of our predecessors. Over the past three centuries and more, the people of New Hampshire collectively have invested an immense treasure of time and money in the creation of our built environment. Our houses, churches, and public and commercial buildings are the tangible remains of the working lives of countless people. Every structure represents a commitment of capital, labor, and thought. Our built environment is an inheritance of great cultural and monetary value. Loss of that investment through neglect or demolition is a waste of resources. Preservation of that investment is the responsible stewardship of wealth.

Linda Wilson, Deputy SHPO, Retires

[Elizabeth H. Muzzey](#),

DHR Director & State Historic Preservation Officer



Linda Ray Wilson retired in May from her post as Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer at the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources. She came to work for the office in the mid-1970s, when it was undergoing a tumultuous beginning. Linda's first official day as a state employee was July 1, 1975, when the office was still part of the Department of Resources and Economic Development.

It usually takes years before the effects of events and people can be objectively evaluated and understood; that is one of the reasons that the National Register of Historical Places expects historical properties to be at least fifty years old before they are nominated. Exceptions are made, however, for resources that have extraordinary significance. Similarly, it's already very clear that the contributions of Linda Wilson to New Hampshire's preservation community are extraordinary and lasting.

To understand the changes Linda brought about in her 35 years of service, it's helpful to remember what did not exist in the 1970's. There was no National Register Program; only a handful of properties had been designated as National Historic Landmarks. Today, thousands of resources enjoy the benefits of National Register listing. There were no mechanisms for reviewing the effects of public projects on historical resources and avoiding or mitigating adverse impacts. Urban renewal still held sway in New Hampshire cities, and an oil refinery was proposed at the Isles of Shoals. Historic mills could not be redeveloped with the assistance of Federal Preservation Tax Incentives, and archeological resources were not being protected through the efforts of the State Conservation and Rescue Archaeology Program.

Communities could not create local historic districts or heritage commissions. Building, safety and access codes did little to support historical rehabilitations. A state-wide preservation plan had never been written. Inherit New Hampshire – now known as the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance – had not yet been formed. Nor was the New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program in existence. The close connections between agriculture and history in our state were little understood, and New Hampshire's barns were forgotten has-beens.

Scores of other programs were also established or flourished with Linda's guidance and amazing ability to collaborate – the Certified Local Government Program, the NH Stone Wall Policy, Historic Highway Markers, the 1980's "Jobs Bill" Rehabilitation and Survey & Planning grants, the Conservation License Plate Program, the Coalition for Sustaining Agriculture, and of course, this newsletter. Most of New Hampshire's most cherished landmarks – Historic Harrisville, the Belknap Mill, the Belmont Mill, the Legislative Office Building, Canterbury Shaker Village and more – all bear Linda's preservation mark.

Most importantly, Linda left her mark on people. Over the years, engineers, housing specialists, architects, environmentalists and others have listened to her determined explanations of why historical resources matter and learned to consider them while planning projects.

Two generations of preservationists, archaeologists and architectural historians now better understand the state's resources and how to care for them, thanks to the tireless passion of a Southerner who chose to move and live here. Linda created a tremendous legacy for all of us to continue to uphold at the New Hampshire preservation office. Fortunately, she also left the tools, the knowledge and the spirit we'll need to carry on her legacy.

Ten Properties & One District Added to State Register

[Shelly Angers](#), Public Information Officer, NH Department of Cultural Resources

The New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources is pleased to announce that the State Historic Resources Council has added ten individual properties to the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places and recognized one district.

The State Register has helped to promote the significance of many historic properties across New Hampshire. Benefits of being listed on the State Register include:

- Special consideration and relief from some building codes and regulations;
- Designation of a property as historical, which is a pre-qualification for many grant programs, including Conservation License Plate grants and New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) grants; and
- Acknowledgment of a property's historical significance in the community.

The most recent additions to the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places are:

The [Enfield Village Historic District](#) is an excellent example of a Connecticut River Valley village center. Its buildings date from 1800 through the 1970s and include municipal, commercial, religious and residential structures. The village was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2010.

The [Norman and Marion Perry House](#) in Campton was designed by Hugh Stubbins, Jr. in 1959 and surrounded by a Leon Pearson landscape. With its use of glass to blur the boundary between indoors and out, and its carefully planned open spaces, it represents the residential version of the Modernist architectural movement.

The [Rumford House](#) in Franklin was originally constructed circa 1732 in Concord, but was taken apart and moved to Franklin in 1925 by Clyde Brown for use as an antiques shop next door to his tearoom. Together, the buildings showcased “authentic New England” to rail and early automobile tourists.

The [Freedom Village Grammar School](#) cost \$2000 to build in 1895; it served the town as a two-room schoolhouse until 1983, undergoing only minor changes and upgrades. The building represents 100 years of Freedom’s investment in education.

[Ossipee Mountain Grange Hall](#) was built in 1904, when fraternal farming organizations were spreading the progressive farming movement to rural areas. With meeting space for the Patrons of Husbandry and a small store, this Grange Hall served the village as a social center.

The [Goss Farm Barn](#) in Rye is a good example of a circa 1800 English-style barn converted to a Yankee-style barn, a common update to New Hampshire farms. This transformation took place around 1870, likely to accommodate changing agricultural traditions.

[Salem Depot](#), built in 1867, represents the town’s rail center. Once home to the Manchester and Lawrence Railroad and later the Boston and Maine Railroad, it is the only remaining depot in Salem, and one of only three still existing from the Manchester and Lawrence Railroad.

[Salem’s District No. 5 Schoolhouse](#) operated as a school from 1873 through 1944; from 1944 through 1961 it functioned as an addition to the District No. 1 School. It has since been moved to the Salem Historical Society’s grounds and restored as a schoolhouse.

The [Sandown Depot Railroad Station](#), built in 1874, was listed in the National Register in 1986 as the best remaining example of a depot on the Nashua and Rochester Railroad, once the busiest single-track line in the United States.

The [Lee Webster Place](#) on Mountain Road in Sandwich is likely one of the oldest farm properties in the area known as Cram’s Corner, a rural crossroads village dating to the 1780s. The house and lands illustrate the area’s agricultural character.

[Stratford’s Methodist-Episcopal Church](#), now the Marion Blodgett Museum, was the first church in town in 1853. In 1896, when a more modern building was desired, the frugal townspeople stripped the original building down to its frame, added a bell tower and vestibule, and created the shingle-style building that exists today. It was used as a church through the late 1950s and became property of the Cohos Historical Society in 2001.

James Garvin, State Architectural Historian, Receives Two Awards

[Shelly Angers](#), Public Information Officer, NH Department of Cultural Resources



The Division of Historical Resources' James L. Garvin received two prestigious--and well-deserved--awards this spring. At the 2011 NH Preservation Alliance Annual Awards, Jim was honored for his outstanding leadership and service in historic preservation. The Alliance cited his ability to combine thoughtful, practical and pioneering research with outstanding communication and advocacy skills, and for helping people from all walks of life understand and value the history and technology of buildings, learn how to care for them, communicate their significance, and protect and revive them.

At the University of New Hampshire's Commencement ceremony, Jim, along with his wife Donna-Belle, received the 2011 University of New Hampshire Granite State Award, which is given for outstanding community service. A 1967 UNH graduate, Jim began his professional career at Strawberry Banke Museum in Portsmouth, where he was the second employee and first curator. After earning his doctorate at Boston University, he served as curator at the NH Historical Society and joined the NHDHR as state architectural historian in 1987.

Photo courtesy UNH Photographic Services

All Books Great and Small....Recommendations from the DHR Staff

[Elaine Loft](#), Program Assistant, NH Department of Cultural Resources



Illustrated Guidelines on Sustainability for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings: Anne Grimmer; JoEllen Hensley; Liz Petrella; Audrey Tepper; U.S. Department of the Interior; National Park Service.

The Secretary of the Interior has updated its 1992 publication with a new illustrated version of its guidelines for rehabilitating historic buildings. After making the point that historic buildings are often inherently sustainable (due to the quality and methods of construction), the guidelines offer specific guidance on how to make historic buildings more efficient in a manner that will both preserve their historic character and meet *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation*. Each subject area includes a table of "recommended" and "not recommended" courses of action. Subject areas addressed include: planning, maintenance, windows, weatherization and insulation, heating, ventilating, air conditioning and air circulation, solar technology, wind power, roofs, site features and water efficiency, day lighting.

This booklet is available for the cost of \$7.00 from the U.S. Government Printing Office: (866) 512-1800 and <http://bookstore.gpo.gov/actions/GeneralSearch.do>

Learn More About Preservation Programs

To learn more about historic preservation programs and activities on the horizon, visit the [Cultural Events Calendar](#) of the [NH Department of Cultural Resources](#), the [News and Events Calendar](#) of the [NH Division of Historical Resources](#), the [NH Preservation Alliance Events web site](#), the [Association of Historical Societies of New Hampshire E-ssociate](#), and the "history" section of [nh365.org](#). Also visit [PreservationDirectory.com](#), a national portal with links to a wide and expanding range of preservation events, sources and resources.

[Staff members](#) of the N.H. Division of Historical Resources have prepared this newsletter.

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